

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for agreeing to discuss the case and acceptable claim language. In view of the interview, Claim 1 was amended to clarify the existing relationship between the passive bearing and the damping device separate thereof. No new matter has been added. The clarification is supported by the specification (Figs. 3-5, page 5-6 6, lines 34-23). Applicant submits that Claim 1, as originally drafted and supported by the specification, taught a damping device that acted upon a rotating magnetic element of the passive bearing and that the term "magnetic element" was sufficiently defined within the specification. The amendment merely expressly defines the term "magnetic element" within the claim to clarify the relationship taught in the originally drafted claim. Thus, the amendment does not narrow the scope of protection afforded claim 1 as originally drafted.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Goldowsky, U.S. Patent No. 4,379,598 ("Goldowsky"). On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 2-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Goldowsky in view of Nakazeki et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,686,404 ("Nakazeki").

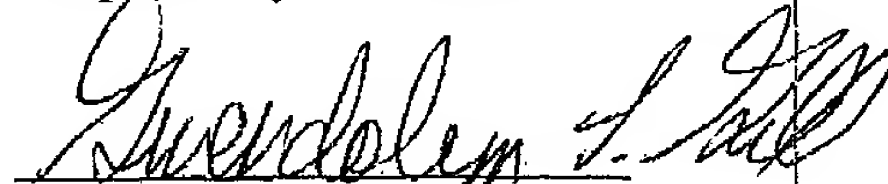
Applicant submits that the foregoing amendment renders the rejection of claim 1 moot. Regarding the rejections of claims 2-7, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable and thus, claims depending from claim 1 are patentable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that the present claims are in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions

0251560.01
LIB: C2

regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



Gwendolyn L. Gill
Registration No. 46,214
Kennedy Covington Lobdell
& Hickman, L.L.P.
Bank of America Corporate Center
100 N. Tryon Street, Suite 4200
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202-4006
Telephone (704) 331-7569
-- Attorney for Applicant

FAX RECEIVED

JAN 03 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

0251560.01
LIB: C2